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The Theban is the only great mythical cycle that is confined to a narrow geographical area within Greece proper. Robert holds that Oedipus was originally a "year-god" who became a Theban king; then in the developing story he grew into a patricide, a conqueror of the Sphinx, and the father of two warrior sons, whose quarrel may have a basis in historical events. The final form of the myth was created by the great tragedians of the fifth century, especially by Euripides in his *Phoenissae*. The details here also are discussed with the fulness and clarity that we should expect from the author of *Oedipus*.

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Archaeological Excavation. By J. P. DROOP, M.A. Cambridge: The University Press; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915. 8vo. Pp. xii+80. 8 figures. \$1.00.

"This essay has been written chiefly with the idea of entertaining the many who by their interest and subscriptions have helped in the work of recovering the past, and partly in the hope that, if it makes even slightly for the accomplishment of better work in the future, it may not have been written in vain."

It is an excellent little manual for those who are intending to excavate, written by one who, though never in full charge of an expedition, has had experience in Greece and in Egypt. Stress is laid throughout upon the duty of conducting excavations for the purpose of extracting from a site all the information it can yield and placing that information promptly before the public. Digging merely for the purpose of finding objects of special interest is properly condemned.

The excavator should be in some measure a surveyor and engineer, a photographer, and a draughtsman, but above all a man of tact and sufficiently in command of the language of his workmen to understand them and be understood by them. Moreover—and this is essential—no excavation should be undertaken with an insufficient staff. The strata of the site should be carefully distinguished, and the whole site, after preliminary trenches (better than pits) have made its conditions clear, should be excavated evenly to avoid confusion of strata. All objects found should be labelled and recorded at once. Practical directions are given for the use of the dumpy level, the pick and spade, the knife for careful work, the choice of the place for dumping, and the like, as well as for encouragement of industry, efficiency, and honesty among the workmen.

The book is to be recommended as interesting, practical, and sensible, well devised to guard inexperienced excavators against possible mistakes in preparation of their outfit and conduct of their digging, as well as to explain to those who contribute funds the manner in which the funds are to be spent.

HAROLD N. FOWLER